

Message Text

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42

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APPROVED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

ARA/CAR:JRBURKE

WHITE HOUSE:MR. LOW

S/S:WHLUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 148199

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, TD

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS VISIT TO THE US

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 1598

1. DEPARTMENT HAS NOT YET RECEIVED ANY INDICATION FROM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO EMBASSY OR FROM UN AMBASSADOR SEIGNORET OF GOTT INTEREST IN SEEKING APPOINTMENT FOR PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS WITH PRESIDENT.

2. VISIT WITH PRESIDENT NOT PRACTICAL SINCE PRESIDENT WILL NOT BE IN WASHINGTON DURING PERIOD OF PRIME MINISTER'S STAY IN US.

3. GIVEN THE EXTREMELY LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE TO TRY AND ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT AND SEVERE CONSTRAINTS ON PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE, PLUS THE FACT THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO OPPORTUNITY TO WORK UP AGENDA FOR SUCH A MEETING WITH GOTT, WE ARE RELUCTANT TO TAKE ANY INITIATIVE WITH TRINIDADIAN. BI-LATERAL ADVANTAGES WHICH COULD POSSIBLY ACCRUE FROM THIS ENCOUNTER--ASSUMING IT WENT WELL--COULD BE OVER-BALANCED ELSEWHERE IN THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN. PRIME MINISTER BARROW, BURNHAM AND MANLEY HAVE ALL TRAVELED TO OR THROUGH

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THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE PAST YEAR AND EACH WOULD HAVE

WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT.
TO SINGLE OUT DR. WILLIAMS FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION COULD
CONCEIVABLY STIR RESENTMENTS AND POSSIBLY JEALOUSY IN
OTHER CARICOM CAPITALS. KISSINGER

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